

# **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

Holiday Inn West Conference Center

7501 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

November 17, 2006

## **Minutes**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cheryl Bollinger, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Owen Bieber, Annette Guilfoyle, Albert Lewis, Chun-Keung Leung, and Sonia Harb

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

### **OSA STAFF PRESENT**

Bonnie Graham, Cindy Albrecht, Peggy Brey, Sharon Gire, Cherie Mollison, Sally Steiner, and Holliace Spencer

### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Miriam Reibold and Judith Condon

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Pawelski seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2006 meeting. Commissioner Newport seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire shared the following:

#### **Updates**

- Impact of election on the new state House/Senate
- Single Point of Entry (SPE) underway
- Continuing outreach with retirees
- Housing options are growing (greenhouses and RFP's for affordable assisted living situations)

- Attended the United Methodist Retirement Communities 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Chelsea
- Attended the Michigan Association of Senior Centers Annual Conference in Lansing

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

None

## **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

### State Advisory Council (SAC) Chairperson

Chairperson Kennedy announced the resignation of Annette Guilfoyle as Chairperson of the SAC due to her acceptance of a new position as Executive Director of the West Michigan Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Association. Chairperson Kennedy thanked Commissioner Guilfoyle for her leadership of the SAC and asked for a volunteer from the Commission to serve as the new SAC chairperson. Commissioner Walters volunteered to step in and was appointed by Chairperson Kennedy.

### 2007 Michigan Legislative Transition and Orientation

The strategic planning session scheduled to follow today's Commission meeting has been postponed given a number of commissioners could not attend. In addition, OSA is currently involved in strategic planning discussions with the area agencies on aging (AAA) directors to increase awareness of the aging network and improve advocacy efforts on behalf of older adults. These discussions should help inform and support the Commission's strategic planning discussions. OSA staff will be meeting with the AAAs on December 12, 2006.

Director Gire presented some ideas on how the Commission might become more involved in communicating information about OSA and the growing needs of the older population in Michigan to members of the state legislature such as, meetings with the legislators from their areas to educate them about OSA, the aging network, and the demographics of older adults in Michigan. Director Gire offered OSA staff assistance in preparing information that could be used by commissioners when they meet with legislators. Discussion followed with many commissioners expressing interest in participating in the proposed legislative visits.

### 2006 State Advisory Council Charge: Aging Network Infrastructure

Cherie Mollison and Sally Steiner, OSA staff, asked the Commission for further guidance in defining the 2006 SAC charge of "In-Home Services: Infrastructure" as the topic is too broad to adequately address in one year. At the October SAC meeting members identified six categories related to infrastructure issues. Those categories are: Program Development/Service Capacity, Assisted Living/Nursing Facilities, Transportation, Hospice, Funding Issues, and Miscellaneous. Ms. Steiner and Ms. Mollison explained the categories in detail and asked the Commission to prioritize the categories they would like to see researched.

Following discussion of each category the Commission decided that Program Development/Service Capacity should be the focus of the SAC's effort during 2006.

### Legislative Update and Advocacy Process Action Team

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, updated the Commission on current legislative bills of interest to older adults and the aging network. Ms. Steiner also updated the Commission on the new leadership posts in the House and Senate. Ms. Steiner stated that OSA has established a legislation and advocacy process action team (PAT) for the purpose of tracking and responding to proposed legislation. OSA is currently watching HB 5661 and HB 5663 regarding Senior Driving Discounts, HB 5389 for establishing Single Points of Entry, HB 6478 for Long Term Care Partnerships, and the annual review of exemptions for participation in the Work First Program.

It was noted that Ms. Steiner would attend the monthly Commission meetings as necessary to update commissioners on new and current legislation. Ms. Steiner stated that she could be contacted at 517-373-8810 for more information

#### Other

Commissioner Wilson read a letter to the editor from her local paper, "The Macomb Daily" dated November 11, regarding the accomplishments of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The letter also acknowledged the efforts of Director Gire in support of the program and services for individuals in nursing homes who are unable to speak and advocate for themselves.

Commissioner Newport stated that Alpena is forming an alliance of groups and individuals interested in working to make the community "elder-friendly." Commissioner Newport asked for information from OSA staff regarding technical assistance and support for such efforts.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A copy of the October Corrective Plan of Action progress report from The Senior Alliance is included in the Commission folders.

The December 15, 2006 meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging has been cancelled unanimously by voice vote.

Next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be on January 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be held on December 7, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing. Commissioner Bollinger will be attending as guest Commissioner.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Rau and seconded by Commissioner Newport. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.